Gulbarga, Bijapur, Kittur, Mysore and Srirangapatna as heritage cities/ centres.

Financial Assistance to Cultural Heritage Projects

3309. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special projects to preserve culture heritage in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from various State Governments for preservation of cultural heritage;

(c) whether Government are giving financial assistance to State Government's cultural heritage project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The mandate of Department of Culture is to support through its Schemes and Institutions, the preservation of cultural heritage of the country. Archaeological Survey of India protects selected monuments. The National Archives is the custodian of public records. The National Akademies, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (Bhopal), the National Manuscripts Mission and other institutions are engaged in preservation of heritage. Besides, a special project like the National Mission on Built Heritage and Antiquities has been sanctioned. Over and above this, the Department of Culture supports individual and voluntary organizations to pursue their activities meant to foster the cultural heritage of the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar

3310. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar during 2006, which is China-India Friendship year; and

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto and the extent to which

expenditure on the project would be shared by the Central and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Hiuen Tsang (Xuan Zang) Memorial Hall was constructed by the Central Government (CPWD). It was handed over to Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, an autonomous institute under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, in 2001. Since then, restoration and creative works have been taken up to develop the Memorial Hall. We hope this work will be completed by end of 2006. Expenditure on the Memorial Hall is borne by the Central Government and there is no proposal to share it with the State Government.

Atithi Devo Bhavah awareness campaign

3311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atithi Devo Bhavah awareness campaign has been started only in seven States, if so, the details including criteria of their selection;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh, having one of highest tourist destinations of the country has not been selected for this campaign, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether second phase of this campaign has started at the fag end of last year;

(d) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has been included in this phase and if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) what is the *inter se* priority on the basis of which Government have selected the States to carry out the above campaign?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Two phases of Atithi Devo Bhavah awareness campaign have already been undertaken in 2004-05 and 2005-06. In both the phases seven cities namely; Agra, Jaipur, Delhi, Hyderabad, Aurangabad, Goa and Mumbai were targeted. Selection was based on the number of tourists visiting these places.

(b) to (d) Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh was included in both the phases of the campaign. The second phase of the campaign started in October 2005 during the financial year 2005-06.